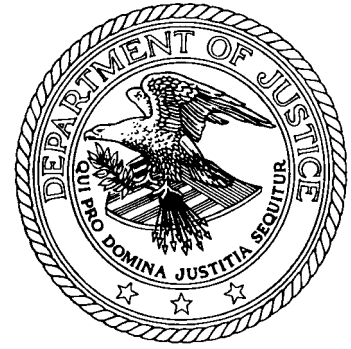


# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA***

*San Diego, California*

*United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam*

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***For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorney Michael P. Skerlos (619) 557-6778***

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***For Immediate Release***

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY -April 25, 2005**

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Alan Michael Donatz, the former General Manager for JetBlue Airlines in San Diego, pled guilty and was sentenced today for Aiding and Abetting the Entry to the Secure Area of any Airport by False Pretense, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1036. United States District Court Judge Thomas Whelan sentenced Donatz to one year of probation. Additionally, Donatz agreed not to seek employment for a period of five years in the airline industry (where a security clearance is required).

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael P. Skerlos, the prosecutor handling the case, the charges stem from Donatz' false statements on an application to the San Diego Regional Airport Authority to obtain a security identification badge for his girlfriend. Possession of this security badge allowed unescorted access to the most sensitive areas of the San Diego International Airport.

According to documents filed with the court, defendant Alan Michael Donatz held the position of General Manager at JetBlue Airlines at the San Diego International Airport from May 2003 until January 29, 2004. Donatz admitted today that on June 11, 2003, he submitted an application for his girlfriend to receive

a security identification badge that allowed her unescorted access to the restricted areas of the airport. The application falsely claimed that Donatz' girlfriend was an employee of JetBlue Airlines and that she had an employment-related need to possess the security badge. Donatz' girlfriend was not then, nor had she ever been, an employee of JetBlue Airlines or any other employer at the San Diego International Airport. Donatz' girlfriend then used the security badge on at least three specified occasions to enter secure areas of the San Diego International Airport.

In announcing today's plea and sentence, United States Attorney Lam said, "Airport security measures are the last line of defense for the flying public. Today's prosecution demonstrates that violations of basic airport security measures will not go unpunished."

Michael J. Aguilar, Transportation Security Administration Federal Security Director added, "We appreciate and applaud the U.S. Attorney's support and efforts in protecting the aviation transportation system and the safety of the flying public."

The case is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, San Diego Division, working cooperatively with the Transportation Security Administration.

## **DEFENDANT**

Alan Michael Donatz

## **SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Entry by False Pretense to the Secure Area of Any Airport, a Misdemeanor.

This charge carries a maximum penalty of 6 months imprisonment, a \$5000 fine, and a term of supervised release not to exceed one year.

## **AGENCIES**

Federal Bureau of Investigation, San Diego Division  
Transportation Security Administration